

D-762
Vincent-Bell House
Galestown
c. 1882
Private

The Vincent-Bell house, located in the center of the village of Galestown, is one of the most distinctive late nineteenth century dwellings survive in this creek-side community. Dating around 1882, the two-story, three-bay, single-pile main block stands out from other structures in the village with machine carved decorative lintels that accent all of the window openings of the two-story, center hall plan main block, including the small two-pane attic lights on the gable ends. Extending to the rear is a two-story, two-room plan service wing, which is defined on its south side by a two-story bay window that lighted the original dining room on the first floor.

The Vincent-Bell house is named for these two families, who held title to this Galestown house and lot during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In January 1882, Leah A. Vincent acquired a small parcel on Main Street for \$25. She evidently improved the lot shortly afterwards, however she executed a mortgage to Minos Howeth five years later in March 1887 for \$220. Twenty months later, in November 1888, Minos Howeth was forced to foreclose on the mortgage, and the house and lot on Main Street were transferred to Annie R. S. Ellis, in whose hands the property remained for a little over a year. The two-story, three-bay frame dwelling, distinctive for its ornamental window lintels, remained in Ellis ownership until December 1889 when it was sold to Elon W. Bell. Elon W. and Ida R. Bell held title to this property for the following thirty-two years. Another long-time owner was Percey B. and Lillian Brimsfield, in whose family the property was held between 1925 and 1970.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-762

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Leah A. Vincent House
other Vincent-Bell House

2. Location

street and number 5548 Galestown Road not for publication
city, town Galestown vicinity
county Dorchester

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name William H. Cowgill, III
street and number 5548 Galestown Road telephone
city, town Seaford state Delaware zip code 19973

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court liber MLB 429 folio 66
city, town Cambridge tax map 36 tax parcel 120 tax ID number 01-000586

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other:

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	1
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	1
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

7. Description

Inventory No. D-762

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The Vincent-Bell house is located at 5548 Galestown Road, formerly Main Street, in the center of the village of Galestown, Dorchester County, Maryland. The two-story, three-bay frame house, dating around 1882, is supported by an in-filled brick foundation and the exterior is sheathed with asbestos shingles. The steeply pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the single-pile main block is a two-story, two-room plan service wing that dates around 1882 as well. Extending from the south side of the service wing is a modern addition erected within the past few years. The house stands across the street from the former Junior Order of United American Mechanics Lodge.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Built around 1882, the two-story, three-bay, single-pile frame house stands in the center of village of Galestown, which is located in the southeastern corner of the Fork election district in Dorchester County, Maryland. The two-story, center hall plan frame house is supported on a continuous brick foundation, and the exterior is sheathed with asbestos shingles over original weatherboards. The main block is covered by a steeply pitched roof sheathed with asphalt shingles. Extending to the rear is a two-story, two-room plan dining room/kitchen wing that dates to the same time as the main block. The house faces northeast with the gable roof oriented on a northwest/southeast axis.

The northeast (main) elevation is a three-bay façade with the first story obscured by an enclosed single-story shed roofed porch. The second story is lighted by three evenly spaced two-over-two sash windows featuring ornamental factory-carved window lintels. The base of the steeply pitched gable roof is finished with a boxed cornice. Piercing the roofline are interior end brick stove chimneys.

The northwest and southeast gable end elevations are marked by pairs of two-over-two sash windows on each story, and each window is embellished with a factory carved window lintel. Piercing the gable end and lighting the attic is a pair of two-pane rectangular windows also featuring factory-carved window lintels. The edge of the gable roof is finished with an extended eave with returns at the base of the roof.

Attached to the back of the main block is a two-story, two-room plan service wing that gives the overall house a tee shape. Extending from the southeast side is a two-story bay window. Rising through the roof is an interior brick chimney stack. The northwest side of the rear wing is defined by a two-bay elevation with an enclosed shed roofed section extending forward in the corner of the tee-plan. Extending to the southeast side of the rear wing is a modern single-story wing that contrasts distinctly with the late nineteenth century character of the house.

The interior was not open for inspection.

8. Significance

Inventory No. D-762

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The Vincent-Bell house, located in the center of the village of Galestown, is one of the most distinctive late nineteenth century dwellings to survive in this creek-side community. Dating around 1882, the two-story, three-bay, single-pile frame dwelling stands out from other structures in the village with machine carved decorative lintels that accent all of the windows openings of the main block, including the pairs of small two-pane attic lights on each gable end. Extending to the rear is a two-story two-room plan service wing that is extended on its south side by a two-story bay window, which lights the original dining room.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

The Vincent-Bell house is named for these two families who held title to this Galestown house and lot during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In January 1882, Leah A. Vincent acquired a small parcel on "Main Street" for \$25.¹ She evidently improved the property shortly afterwards, however she executed a mortgage to Minos Howeth five years later in March 1887 for \$220.00² Twenty months later, in November 1888, Minos Howeth was forced to foreclose on the mortgage and the house on lot facing Main Street were transferred to Annie R. S. Ellis,³ in whose hands the property remained for a little over a year. The two-story, three-bay frame house, distinctive for its ornamental exterior window lintels, remained in Ellis ownership until December 1889 when it was sold to Elon W. Bell.⁴ Elon W. and Ida R. Bell held title to this Galestown house and lot for the following thirty-two years.⁵ Another long-time owner was Percy B. and Lillian Brimsfield, in whose family the property was held between 1925 and 1970.⁶

¹ Dorchester County Land Records, CL 3/639-40, 20 January 1882, Dorchester County Courthouse.

² Dorchester County Land Record, CL 9/444-45, 3 March 1887, Dorchester County Courthouse.

³ Dorchester County Land Record, CL 11/577-78, 19 November 1888, Dorchester County Courthouse.

⁴ Dorchester County Land Record, CL 13/285, 20 December 1889, Dorchester County Courthouse.

⁵ Dorchester County Land Record, WHM 10/275, 25 April 1921, Dorchester County Courthouse.

⁶ Dorchester County Land Records, JFD 17/183, 3 October 1925; PLC 166/355, 28 September 1970, Dorchester County Courthouse.

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Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. M

Name
Continuation Sheet

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Inventory No. D-762

Name Vincent-Bell House
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

Vincent-Bell House
5548 Galestown Road
Galestown, Dorchester County, Maryland
Chain-of-title

Map 36, Parcel 120

MLB 429/66

Mary Lou Wilson

to

6.23.2000

William H. Cowgill III and Karen I. Cowgill

262/507

Charles W. Wilson

to

6.15.1990

Charles W. Wilson and Mary Lou Wilson

PLC 204/319

Thelma M. Blakney, widow, Alexandria, VA

to

2.16.1978

Charles W. Wilson, Prince George's County, MD

Lot on westward side of Main Street

PLC 166/355

Hilda W. Phillips, et al. (Jennings S. Phillips, Imogene B. Bratten,

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Name Vincent-Bell House
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 3

Parker Bratten, Albert W. Brinsfield, Velma N. Brinsfield)
Said Percy B. Brinsfield die died in 1935; Lillian B. Brinsfield died,
4.19.1966, survived by daughters & son, Hilda, Imogene, and Albert

to

9.28.1970

James V. Blakney and Thelma M. Blakney

JFD 17/183

George G. Friedel and Hazel F. Fridel, Seaford

to

10.3.1925

Percy B. Brinsfield and Lillian B. Brinsfield

\$1,800.00

JFD 12/424

Jacob M. Moore, Galestown

to

1.5.1923

George D. Friedel and Hazel F. Fridel, Seaford, Sussex Co., De.

\$2,500.00

WHM 10/275

Elon W. Bell and Ida R. Bell

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Name Vincent-Bell House
Continuation Sheet

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to

4.25.1921

Jacob M. Moore

CL 13/285

Thomas J. Ellis and Annie R. S. Ellis, Sussex Co., Delaware

to

12.20.1889

Elon W. Bell

\$500.00 all that house and lot with improvements thereon situated
on the Main Street in the village of Galestown

CL 11/577-78

Minos Howeth, mortgagee

to

11.19.1888

Annie R. S. Ellis, wife of Thomas J. Ellis

....did sell mortgaged premises....for the sum of \$644.00....all that house
and lot of ground with improvements therein situated on Main Street in the
village of Galestown

Mortgage

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Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 5

CL 9/444-45

Leah A. Vincent

to

3.3.1887

Minos Howeth

\$ 220.00 "all that house and lot of ground with improvements thereon
situated on the Main Street in the village of Galestown in said
county..."

CL 3/639-40

Solomon C. Vincent and Amandy J. Vincent

to

1.20.1882

Leah A. Vincent

\$25.00 south side of Main Street

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse.

Interview with Bill and Karen Cowgill, 3.17.2008

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property .70 acre

Acreage of historical setting 1/2 acre

Quadrangle name Sharptown, Md.-Del.

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this surveyed property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

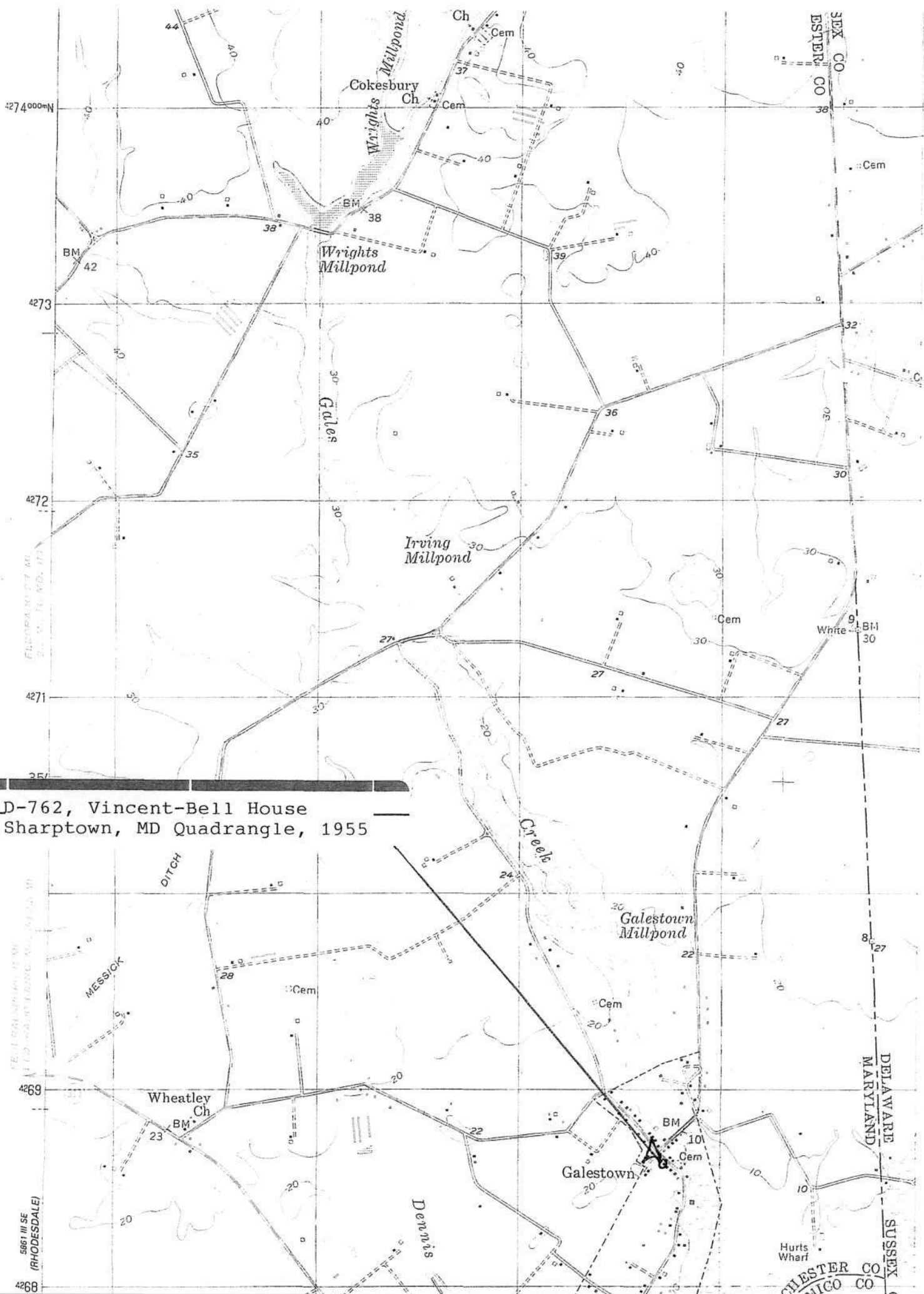
11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Chesapeake Country Heritage & Preservation	date	3/17/2008
street & number	Cedar Hill, P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600



D-762, Vincent-Bell House
Sharptown, MD Quadrangle, 1955



D-762

VINCENT-BORN HOUSE

GALESTOWN, DORCHESTER Co., MD.

NORTHEAST ELEVATION

3/08, Paul Touant, PHOTOGRAPHED

WEL/M.D. HISTORICAL TRUST